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MIRFIELD
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ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the . .
YEAR . .
1942 . .





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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1942

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
MIRFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of Mirfield Urban District Council for 1942.

Dr. C. Grant Nicol, resigned his appointment as Medical Officer of Health, Mirfield, Heckmondwike, and Assistant Medical Officer to the West Riding County Council, on the 31st October, 1942, and his successor was appointed from December 1st of that same year.

The Birth Rate 14·01 against 9·69 for 1941, showed a sharp increase ; the death rate (13·56) remained about the same figure and the Infantile Mortality Rate declined from 97 to 69·6. I have pleasure in recording no maternal death during the year.

From available records the year would appear to have been a healthy one. Diphtheria was less prevalent than in 1941, and notified cases greatly exceeded those regarded by the physician to Crossley Hospital as true Clinical Diphtheria. Notifications of Tuberculosis—8, exceed the pre-war average. Scarlet Fever was prevalent ; the clinical type mild, although middle ear complications were frequent. The response to Diphtheria immunisation was maintained—that the school child is more accessible than the pre-school child probably accounts for the inferior returns of the latter group.

Protracted negotiations were completed in December for the treatment of Scabies at the First Aid Post, Lower Hopton, in the ensuing year.

My acknowledgments are due to those who provided returns which enabled me to furnish the Report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN BATTERSBY.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health—

C. GRANT NICOL, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., (Jan. 1—Oct. 31)

J. BATTERSBY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed from Dec. 1)

Sanitary Inspector—H. H. JOHNSON

VITAL STATISTICS—Area (in Acres) 3,394

Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	...	11280
(Based on Ration Books issued)		11100
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	4000
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers		4000
Rateable Value	...	£53,603
Product of Penny Rate for Financial Year		
1941'42	...	£208 6s. 4'132d.

Births—

BIRTHS	Male	BIRTHS	Female	Total
Total ...	80	Total ...	78	158
Legitimate ...	78	Legitimate ...	73	151
Illegitimate ...	2	Illegitimate ...	5	7

BIRTH Rate—

(Based on Registrar-General's figures) per 1,000 Population 14'01

STILL-BIRTHS ... 2 Male 3 Female Total 5

Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population 0'44

Deaths—Males ... 70 Females ... 83 Total ... 153
Death Rate ... 13'56

Maternal Mortality—

I have pleasure in recording once again that there has been no Maternal death.

Infant Mortality—

11 Infants under 1 year of age died during the year, 4 Male, and 7 Female. Rate per 1,000 Live Births 69'6

Death from Enteritis—Under 2 years of age Nil

For comparison with other districts, and with England and Wales, and also with 1940 and 1941 Locally, a Summary is set out below :-

Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population (except where indicated)		England & Weles		148 Smaller Towns 25-50,000		Mirfield		
		1941	1942	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942
Live Births	...	14·2	15·8	16·4	18·4	11·46	9·69	14·0
Still Births	...	0·51	0·54	0·60	0·62	0·43	0·69	0·44
Deaths (all Causes)		12·9	11·6	13·0	12·1	13·52	13·32	13·56
*Maternal Mortality		2.23	2·01	Not available		Nil	Nil	Nil

N.B.—Rates per 1,000 Total Births—

†Infant Mortality	59	49	56	46	45	97	69'6
Deaths from							
Enteritis (under							
2 year old) ...	5.1	5'2	4'6	4'8	Nil	8'85	Nil
†Rate per 1,000 Live Births							

The Causes of death, and the number(s) under each head were as follows :-

Cerebro-Spinal Fever...	1	Pneumonia ...	8
Diphtheria ...	2	Ulcer of Stomach or	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory		Duodenum ...	1
System ...	5	Appendicitis ...	1
Other Respiratory Disease	1	Other Digestive Disturbance	3
Syphilitic Diseases ...	1	Nephritis ...	9
Influenza ...	1	Premature Birth ...	2
Cancer (All) ...	23	Congenital Malformations	
Diabetes ...	3	Birth Injury, etc. ...	7
Inter-Cranial Vascular		Violent Causes ...	3
Lesions ...	29	All Other Causes ...	11
Heart Disease ...	35	War Traffic ...	Nil
Other Circulatory Diseases	2		
Bronchitis ...	6		153

A ii SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

I am indebted to the Manager of the Local Labour Exchange for the following information :-

Industries in Mirfield continue to be engaged through the year and have observed all workers capable of ordinary industrial employment. There is no unemployment register. Particular attention is paid to welfare facilities in premises where women or juvenile workers are directed. Several canteens have been opened and a Clinic, under the direction of a Medical Officer established at one factory.

B HEALTH PROVISIONS.

Scabies. By the end of the year arrangements were complete for the treatment of cases of Scabies at the First Aid Post, Lower Hopton. Appropriate Drugs, Medicaments and the use of premises were provided and the co-operation of the staff approved by the West Riding County Council; Afternoon and Evening Sessions are to be held on Thursdays beginning January, 1943. Cases are referred for treatment by general practitioners, and from School and Child Welfare Clinics. Facilities for contacts are also provided. Serious cases can be treated in Hospital by arrangement with Batley Corporation. Disinfestation of bedding, etc., is conducted by Spenborough U.D.C., on behalf of your Authority when indicated; Oral and Typewritten instructions are to be distributed at the Post for routine cases; the assistance of the Health Visitor has been enlisted in the supervision of cases and for cleansing in the home.

Apart from this there are no other important changes to record.

C (1) WATER.

The district receives the bulk of its supply from Huddersfield Corporation. The supply is constant and direct to the houses.

In addition to the above there are eight shallow wells, four springs, and one private reservoir, supplying 57 houses. On this latter means of supply 51 houses are solely dependent and 6 houses are partly dependent.

Eleven Samples (four chemical, seven bacteriological), of water from several wells, springs, etc. in the area, were submitted to the County Laboratory for examination.

Adverse Reports were received in three cases. In one case certain measures were taken to cleanse the well concerned and further samples were reported satisfactory and in the remaining cases investigations as to the source of pollution are being carried out.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Except in isolated cases the district is well provided with sewers. No other extension has been made during the year.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

The river Calder runs through the district and is in a polluted state when it enters the district.

(iii) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES—

See Sanitary Inspector's Report

D HOUSING.

There was no major change to report on the Housing position during the year.

Houses requiring Cleansing ...	...	...	3
Additional Lighting and Ventilation to Houses			3
Dampness remedied ...	...	...	31
Workshops and Bakehouses Limewashed ...			3
Number of Nuisances found in 1942 ...		...	182
Number of Nuisances in hand from 1941 ...			5
Total requiring Abatement ...	...	...	187
Total number Abated ...	...	...	166
In hand end of 1942 ...	...	...	21

Overcrowding Particulars.

(a)	1	Number of Dwelling Houses Overcrowded at the end of the year ...	...	...	22
	2	Number of Families dwelling therein ...	...		22
	3	Number of Persons dwelling therein ...	...		119
(b)		Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year ...	...	...	Nil
(c)	1	Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year ...	...	...	23
	2	Number of Persons concerned in such cases ...			150

The Housing situation has now reached an acute stage due to the cessation of building. The whole question of overcrowding will have to be given serious attention in the future.

E INSPECTION SUPERVISION—Food

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Excluding Tuberculosis, there were 187 notifications in all; the distributions were as follows:-

	R.G.	Local		R.G.	Local
Diphtheria ...	20	19	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	109	110	Pneumonia ...	4	4
Measles ...	33	31	Erysipelas ...	5	5
Whooping Cough	11	7	Puerperal Pyrexia	5	3
Total			...	187	

Diphtheria.

Of 26 notifications only 8 were regarded at County Hospital as true Clinical Diphtheria. Two deaths occurred—in neither case was the child immunised.

SCARLET FEVER was clinically of a mild type and prevalent in January, June, September and December. Otitis Media was a common complication.

B 9—IMMUNISATION.

The position is most successfully shown in the Return made to the Medical Officer of Health, Sec. 2 for December 31st, 1942

	Under 5	5 to 15
(a) Estimated Number of children Immunised at 31st December, 1942 ...	730	1,286
(b) Estimated Number considered Immunised	52·8	84

This Return included only children in Elementary Schools (5 to 15) Group, but it may be reasonably assumed that 4/5ths of the school children are immunised. This is satisfactory when one recalls the prevalence of Diphtheria in this area in recent years. Immunisation of the pre-school child requires additional attention.

C 10

Eight fresh cases were notified (5 Pulmonary) 2 male, 3 female; and three Non-Pulmonary (2 male, 1 female). At the end of the year the figures representing the position in Mirfield were:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	12	9	21
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	9	12

NEW CASES		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
		M	F	M	F
Under 1	...	—	—	—	—
1- 5	...	—	—	—	—
5-10	...	—	—	1	—
10-15	...	—	—	—	—
15-20	...	—	1	—	1
20-25	...	—	2	—	—
25-35	...	1	—	—	—
35-45	...	1	—	1	—
45-55	...	—	—	—	—
55-65	...	—	—	—	—
65	...	—	—	—	—
		2	3	2	1



ANNUAL REPORT
FROM THE
Sanitary Inspector's
AND
Cleansing Superintendent's
DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my second Annual Report of the Sanitary Conditions appertaining to your district for the year ending 1942.

That part relating to the Cleansing Department extends to the end of the financial year, that is the 31st March, 1943.

In conclusion my thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and interest in all matters relating to the work of the department, also to all Officials of the Council for their valuable assistance and co-operation, which has been greatly appreciated.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. H. JOHNSON.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(4) Sanitary Convenience.

Closet Accommodation, December 31st, 1942

Number of Privies	277
„ Privy Ashpits	165
„ Dry Ashpits	23
„ Dust Bins	3605
„ Water Closets	3850
„ Waste Water Closets	53
„ Pail or Tub Closets	33
„ Privies Discontinued	5

Number of Water Closets provided during the year is as follows :-

By conversion of Privies to Water Closets	6
By provision of Extra Closet accommodation to existing property where insufficient	1
By provision to New Property	Nil
By conversion of Waste Water Closets to W.C.'s	Nil
By conversion of Tub Closets to W.C.'s	Nil
TOTAL	6

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Total Number of Inspections	1135
Complaints Investigated	40
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops	102
Canal Boats	5
Dwelling Houses—Housing Act	—
Public Health Act	218
Infectious Diseases... ..	117
Drains Inspected and Approved	19
Factories and Workshops	19
Schools	5
Slaughter Houses, Markets and Shops	31
Bakehouses	20
Premises where Nuisances were Found	63
Entertainment Houses	1
Refuse Tips	21
Miscellaneous Visits	474

NOTICES SERVED

Legal Notices Issued	3
Letters or Informal Notices	63
Owners seen Personally	76

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

Drains Reconstructed	7
Drains connected to Main Sewers	1
Drains not Efficiently Trapped	3
Sink Pipes and Drains Repaired	21
Yard Drains Cleared	5
Drains Ventilated... ..	2
Cellar Drains Cleared	2
Eaves and Fall Pipes Provided	19
Roofing	6
Water Closets Repaired	9
Defective Wall Plaster Repaired	11
Waste Pipe to Disconnect	7
Water in Cellars	5
Poultry, Pigeons and Animals	7
Offensive Accumulations	2
Wet Ashpits Abolished	5
Privies Abolished	5
Privies Converted	5
Dry Ashpits Abolished... ..	4
Insufficient Ashes Accommodation and Closet Accommodation	56
Overcrowding Abated	23

SHOPS ACT, 1934

Regular visits have been made under the Shops Acts, 1934, during the year, no contraventions of the Act have been found.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No observations were taken during the year.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of Council Houses found to be Infested ...	Nil
Number Disinfested	Nil
Other Houses found to be Infested	3
Number Disinfested	3

PREMISES & OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS & REGULATIONS.

All Premises and Occupations within the district which can be controlled by Bye-laws are already so controlled. There are no Lodging-houses or Underground Sleeping Rooms, and only occasionally do we get Van Dwellings in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply :-

Cow Keepers and Milk Purveyors Resident in the District ...	24
Milk Purveyors in the District	30
Milk Purveyors from Districts Outside this Area	11
Milk Purveyors added to the Register during the year ...	3
Milk Purveyors who have discontinued business during the year	3

The Cowsheds and Diaries have been regularly inspected throughout the year, and in addition the cows have been subject to an inspection by the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. With the exception of minor defects the several Cowsheds and Dairies have been carried on in a satisfactory manner.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

During the year 12 samples of Ordinary Milk and 8 samples of Designated Milk together with 3 samples of School Milks, were submitted to the County Health Department for Bacteriological Examination. The results of the samples are as follows :—

TOTAL	GRADE	INSIDE DISTRICT		OUTSIDE DISTRICT	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
11	Ordinary ...	7	2	2	—
1	Sterilized ...	—	—	1	—
2	Tuberculin Tested	2	—	—	—
6	Accredited	5	1	—	—
3	School Milks ...	2	1	—	—

All 23 samples were examined by inoculation for Tubercle Bacilli, and one sample (from outside the district) gave a positive result. The result of this examination was forwarded to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the necessary action was taken at the farm concerned. The results of samples submitted for Bacteriological examination show that of the 23 samples 19 or 82·6% were reported to be satisfactory all of which came within the standard of that required for Accredited Milk.

MILK (Special Designations) ORDERS 1936-1938.

Number of Licences in operation during 1942 ...	6
Licences issued by W.R.C.C. :-	
Accredited Milk	4
Tuberculin Tested	1
Licences issued by the Council :-	
1 Licence (Supplementary) to retail Pasteurised Milk	

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

By arrangement with the West Riding County Council 24 samples of Milk were submitted for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year. It is gratifying to report that one sample only was reported upon adversely by the Analyst, the remaining 23 samples were reported satisfactory.

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

(a) **Register of Ice Premises.**

Three premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

(b) **Register of Food (Preparation & Manufacture) Premises.**

Ten premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of Food Products.

Thirteen are registered for the preservation of Fish Cooking.

These premises have been regularly inspected during the year, and apart from minor defects, there has been no serious contravention of the Act during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The number of Licensed Slaughterhouses in the district is 7.

Slaughtering for this district is carried out at the Spenborough Abattoir under the control of the Ministry of Food.

CONDEMNATION OF UNSOUND FOOD.

The following items were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :-

Luncheon Meat	...	...	68 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	50 lbs.
Eggs (in Shell)	...	...	47 doz.
Fruit Juices...	...	...	10 lbs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	2 tins
Whitings	...	...	2 tins
Carrots	...	...	2 tins
Codfish	...	...	8 lbs.
Kippers	...	...	14 lbs.

SCAVENGING, 1942-43

The staff engaged on this work consists of 2 drivers, 7 dustmen, and 1 tipman, under the supervision of the foreman.

During the year the 2 Refuse Collecting Waggon were reconstructed. The rear loading, moving floor vehicle was converted into a low loader, end tipping vehicle with canvas covers and the dilapidated all-metal body of the second vehicle was entirely removed and a wood body, metal lined with canvas covers was substituted. The two vehicles are now giving excellent service and should continue to do so for some considerable time.

All Refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping on the Taylor Hall Lane Tip, comprised approximately, 2,139 loads.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Expenditure

	£	s.	d.
Wages	1700	0	0
Oil	15	18	4
Repairs	104	0	0
Hire of Waggon... ..	46	0	0
Sundries	25	0	0
National Health Insurances	56	10	0
Petrol	166	17	6
Licences	70	0	0
Insurances	12	19	2
Reconstruction of Waggon...	137	18	6
Rates	9	17	0

TOTAL ... £2346 0 6

Income

	£
Sundry Rents ...	20
Trade Refuse ...	25
Sundry Charges ...	10

TOTAL ... £55 55 0 0

NET COST ... £2290 0 6

SALVAGE 1942-43

The results of the Salvage effort during the year are set out below.

The increase in the tonnage of waste paper collected over the previous year is 20 tons, which is an excellent performance. The actual increases in tonnage and income from Salvage over the previous years are set out below and the figures are most encouraging to all who have assisted in the work during the past 12 months.

SALVAGE RETURNS.

1941—1942							1942—1943						
TONNAGE				INCOME			TONNAGE				INCOME		
T.	C.	Q.	LBS.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q.	LBS.	£	s.	d.
159	15	1	27	595	13	2	227	16	0	0	1023	15	5

The increase in tonnage is due largely to the Paper and Kitchen Waste. The collection of Kitchen Waste by the Council for delivery to Huddersfield for processing was commenced in October, and approximately 40 tons were delivered during the year. The large increase in income is due to the better prices for salvaged material which have been obtained, particularly in respect of waste paper.

I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the assistance which has been given by many voluntary helpers throughout the district, and appeal to everyone to continue this vital work with the same enthusiasm throughout the next 12 months.

INCOME FROM SALE OF SALVAGED MATERIAL.

	T.	C.	Qr.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	132	16	1	0	836	0	10
Tins	36	15	2	0	36	15	7
Rubber	1	13	2	0	2	1	10
Scrap Metal ...	13	4	0	0	38	6	7
Cullet, Bottles, Jars, etc.	—				8	2	3
Rags	1	0	1	24	19	11	7
Bones	2	12	0	0	10	10	5
Other Metal ...		10	2	2	10	18	2
Kitchen Waste	38	18	1	0	58	16	7
String		5	2	2	2	11	6
					<hr/>		
					£1023 15 5		
					<hr/>		



